

APPENDIX III

GLOSSARY

Archaeology - The study of the people of the past through the recovery and analysis of the artifacts they left behind and their context.

Archival Research - Research done at places in which public or historical records, charters and documents are stored and preserved.

Artifact - Any object shaped or modified by man, or as a result of human activity.

Assemblage - The array of contemporary objects and associations found at an archaeological site.

Base Camp - A prehistoric dwelling site for hunter-gatherers from which resource procurement forays are made.

Bay/Basin Feature - Also known as whale wallows, these shallow ponds, thought to have been formed during the end of the Pleistocene, represent a favored prehistoric settlement location.

Biface - A stone tool that has been flaked on both sides.

Bifurcate - A projectile point from the Archaic Period (6500 B.C.), it is a small point with a notched base.

Cache - A collection of artifacts and/or ecofacts which have been deliberately stored for future use.

Cobble - Frequent lithic tool resource for prehistoric peoples.

Core - A piece of stone from which other pieces of stone are flaked off to make artifacts.

Cortex - Weathered exterior of a piece of lithic material, may be either vein or water-worn cortex.

Cross-section - A transverse of a portion of a feature, horizontally and vertically removing soil from one section.

Cryptocrystalline - Indistinctly crystalline; having an indistinguishable crystalline structure (i.e. - chert and jasper).

Culture - A uniquely human system of habits and customs acquired by man through a non-biological, uninherited process, learned by his society, and used as his primary means of adapting to his environment.

Curated Technology - When artifacts are reused and transported so often that they are rarely deposited in contexts which reflect their actual manufacture and use.

Debitage - Waste material from the manufacture of stone tools.

Diagnostic - Artifact with identifying traits that categorize the item to a specific time period.

Early Stage Biface Reject - A biface that never passed beyond the initial steps of stone tool production due to either flaws in the raw material or manufacturing error.

Extant - Still in existence.

Fall Line - A transition zone from the Piedmont Uplands to the flatter Coastal Plain.

Fallow Field - A plowed but unplanted field.

Faunal Remains - Animal remains from archaeological sites studied to learn of past foodways and the ecological relationships between humans and animals.

Feature - Any soil disturbance or discoloration that reflects human activity or an artifact that, being too large to remove from a site, normally is recorded only; for example, house, storage pits, etc. can also be a very dense collection of artifacts: for example, a lithic chipping feature.

Fire-cracked Rock - A rock that has fractured and/or discolored due to exposure to fire.

Flake - A piece of waste material from the manufacture of stone tools, caused by percussion or pressure applied to the object by an external agent (e.g. hammerstone, antler pressure flaker); flake itself may be further utilized as a tool (see "Debitage").

Foodways - The interrelated systems of food procurement, preparation, and consumption.

Grid - The 2-dimensional intersection network defining the squares in which archaeologists excavate.

Ground Stone Tool - A tool that has been produced by grinding or pecking.

Hammerstone - A rounded stone to be used as a hammer and which is sometimes grooved for hafting to a handle. Usually ungrooved, however, it has a variety of forms ranging from a crudely shaped sphere to a finely ground ovoid with a battered end.

Hell Island Ware - A Woodland I (A.D. 600 - A.D. 1000) conoidal shaped ceramic tempered with finely crushed quartz and mica inclusions, whose exterior surface may be fabric impressed or cord impressed.

Historical - The time period after the appearance of written records. In the New World, this generally refers to the time period after the beginning of European settlement at approximately 1600 A.D.

Historical Archaeology - The study of material culture in an historical perspective.

Humus - Soil, usually on top of the ground, that contains a large proportion of rotted and rotting vegetable material.

In Situ - In the original place.

Late Stage Biface Reject - A biface which was either broken during the later stages of manufacture, or which had been reduced improperly, so that further reduction would not produce a usable tool.

Lithic Artifact - Pertaining to or consisting of stone.

Loam - A loose soil composed of roughly equal parts of silt, clay and sand, especially a kind containing organic matter and of great fertility.

Locus - A defined archaeological site or testing location.

Macro-band Base Camp - For a hunter-gatherer society, an archaeological site one hectare or larger in area characterized by a wide variety of tool types, abundant ceramics, semi-subterranean house structures, storage pit features, and abundant debitage from tool manufacture and reduction.

Marcey Creek Plain - A Woodland I (1200 B.C. - 900 B.C.) ceramic tempered with crushed steatite characterized by flat-bottomed vessels made by modeling with lug handles sometimes used. The first true ceramics of Delaware.

Material Culture - That segment of man's physical environment which is purposely shaped by him according to culturally dictated plans.

Micro-band Base Camp - A component of macro-band, perhaps one or two extended families, which periodically operates independently of the macro-band group.

Minguannan Ware - A Woodland II (A.D. 1000 - A.D. 1600) ceramic tempered with sand, grit, and crushed quartz whose surface treatment includes smoothed surfaces, corded surfaces, and smoothed-over-corded surfaces. Decorations include incising, cord-wrapped-stick, and direct cord impressions.

Mitigate - To make or become less severe or intense by excavating.

Mitigation - In archaeology, refers to minimizing the destruction or disturbance of an archaeological site by a construction project, erosion, farming practices or the like, through excavation of the site and recovery of the information about past life that it contains.

Mockley Ware - A Woodland I (A.D. 110 - A.D. 1000) conoidal shaped ceramic tempered with oyster shell or ribbed mussel whose exterior surface may be smoothed, cord marked, or net impressed.

Notched Point - Areas cut into a point which were used to bind the point to a shaft.

Pedestrian Survey - The walking and collecting of an archaeological site without the excavation of subsurface units.

Phase I - Determination of the absence or presence of a site.

Phase II - Further investigation of a site to define its limits and integrity for National Register eligibility.

Physiographic Zone - Regions or areas that are characterized by a particular geography, geology, and topography.

Piedmont Region - An area of gently rolling to hilly land lying between the Appalachian Mountains and the Atlantic Coastal Plain. The division between the Piedmont Region and the Coastal Plain is marked by the Fall Line.

Plow Zone - In a plowed field, the upper layer of organic soil which is continually reworked by the plow. In the Middle Atlantic region this is about 8-12 inches thick.

Post Mold - The organic stain in the ground which is left by a decayed wooden post. A postmold stain may occur inside of a posthole stain on an archaeological site.

Prehistoric - The time period before the appearance of written records. In the New World this generally refers to indigenous, pre-Contact societies.

Procurement Site - A place that is visited because there is a particular item to acquire; i.e., lithic outcrops.

Profile - A side view of a feature or test unit.

Projectile Point - Strictly speaking, a biface attached to the head of an airborne item of weaponry, like an arrow or a thrown dart; frequently used indiscriminately when referring to any biface.

Rejects - Stone tools which have been thrown away due to manufacturing or material flaws.

Sherd - A piece of broken pottery.

Site - A space of ground containing evidence of human occupation that archaeologists select for their dig.

Socioeconomic - Applies to the inter-relationship between economic wealth (or poverty) and social position or status.

Soil Horizon - Soils are divided in 3 horizons, which reflect different kinds of chemical and physical processes that have resulted from changing climatic conditions.

Staging Site - A temporary camp where preparations are made for another operation such as a hunting foray.

Stemmed Point - A point that has an obvious area which was used to bind or haft a point to a shaft.

Strata - The various layers of human or geological origin which comprise archaeological sites.

Stratigraphy - The examination of the soil layering on an archaeological site; the characteristics of each individual stratum and its relationship to others in the sequence is critical to understanding the temporal and spatial characteristics of the site.

Subsoil - Sterile, naturally occurring soils not changed by human occupation.

Subsurface - Below the surface, not visible from the surface.

Surface Collection - Act of walking along a surface such as an open field or plowed field, and collecting artifacts seen on the surface of the ground.

Temper - The foreign material introduced into clay to keep pottery from cracking when fired; also known as "grog".

Townsend Ware - A Woodland II (A.D. 1000 - A.D. 1650) ceramic tempered with crushed shell with fabric-impressed exterior surfaces. Decorations include incising, cord-wrapped stick and direct cord designs.

Transect - A single strip of land crossing an area possibly containing an archaeological site. Archaeologists may search a transect rather than survey the whole area.

Transect Sampling - A means of archaeological research design in which the sampling element is a square or rectangular grid.

Wolfe Neck Ware - A Woodland I (700 B.C. - 400 B.C.) conoidal shaped ceramic tempered with crushed quartz whose exterior surface may be cord marked or net impressed.